

IN THE CLAIMS

1-22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) A method of executing a program with a processor, the processor being capable of executing a set of instructions, comprising:

providing an original instruction from a sequence of instructions comprising a program stored in a memory;

generating an address from the original instruction;

generating a jump and link instruction to the address, the jump and link instruction comprising an instruction for the processor to execute instructions at the address and then return to the instruction following the original instruction in the program;

determining whether the original instruction is a member of the set of instructions;

selecting the jump and link instruction or the original instruction based on the result of the step of determining; and

providing the selected instruction to the processor;

wherein the step of determining whether the original instruction is a member of the set of instructions is performed in parallel with generating the address and generating the jump and link instruction.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 further including providing the selected instruction to an instruction cache of the processor.

25. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of providing an original instruction includes retrieving the instruction from a memory.

26-30. (canceled)

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